



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

AUG 12 1977

Mr. Howard Roffman  
1111 S. W. 16th Avenue  
Apartment 156  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Mr. Roffman:

You appealed from the failure of the Department of Justice to respond in a timely manner to your request for access to "records relating to the photographs and X-rays taken at the autopsy of President Kennedy, and subsequent transfers and examinations of these materials."

In his letter of November 22, 1976, Assistant Attorney General James P. Turner, Civil Rights Division, advised you that his Division has no records responsive to your request for "copies of pictures and X-rays taken during the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy," etc. In fact, a thorough search of Civil Rights Division files also failed to locate any records relating to pictures or X-rays taken during the autopsy of President Kennedy, although the words "records relating to" were inadvertently omitted from Mr. Turner's letter to you. I hope that this explanation resolves any confusion you may have had regarding the adequacy of the Division's response to your request. Under the Freedom of Information Act, appeals can be taken only from denials of access to existing records. Accordingly, your letter of December 20, 1976, cannot be deemed to constitute an appeal from the action of the Civil Rights Division.


A check of the records of the Office of Legal Counsel reveals that you have been granted access in its entirety to records of that Office within the scope of your request. A member of my staff has determined that there are no records in the Office of the Attorney General which are responsive to the request.

My Office will continue to monitor the processing of your request by the Criminal Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If you are dissatisfied with the responses of



these two components, you may advise this Office of that fact and your letter will be treated as an appeal on the merits. If there is a need for further correspondence concerning this appeal, please mention No. 2695, so that you will be accorded the priority to which that number is entitled.

Sincerely,



Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director  
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals